

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling a parameter of at least one signal, including the steps of:
 - receiving a desired command signal from at least one control input;
 - determining a potential condition for receiving an undesired command signal from at least one other control input;
 - activating a desired command as a function of the desired command signal; and
 - controlling a parameter of a signal from the at least one other control input in response to the potential condition.
2. A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein receiving a desired command signal includes the step of receiving a desired command signal from at least one axis of a joystick.
3. A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein receiving a desired command signal includes the step of receiving a desired command signal from at least one lever.
4. A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein receiving a desired command signal includes the step of receiving a desired command signal from an automated program.

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5. A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein receiving a desired command signal includes the step of receiving a desired command signal from a proportional output device.

6. A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein controlling a parameter of a signal includes the step of increasing an amount of deadband of the at least one other control input.

7. A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein controlling a parameter of a signal includes the step of controlling a gain parameter of the at least one other control input.

8. An apparatus for controlling a parameter of at least one signal, comprising:

a plurality of control inputs; and

a controller for:

receiving a desired command signal from at least one control input;

determining a potential condition for receiving an undesired command signal from at least one other control input;

activating a desired command as a function of the desired command signal; and

controlling a parameter of a signal from the at least one other control input in response to the potential condition.

9. An apparatus, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the plurality of control inputs includes a joystick.

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10. An apparatus, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the joystick includes a plurality of axes, each axis providing an associated control input.

11. An apparatus, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the plurality of control inputs includes at least one lever.

12. An apparatus, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the plurality of control inputs includes at least one automated program for initiating a command signal.

13. An apparatus, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the plurality of control inputs includes at least one proportional output device.

14. An apparatus, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the plurality of control inputs includes at least one of a joystick, a lever and an automated program.

15. An apparatus, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the controller includes:
an input/output control interface; and
at least one of a deadband control function and a gain control function.

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